



## **MICHIGAN RECOGNIZED FOR TRUCK SAFETY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 13, 2007**

**LANSING.** Michigan was one of four states to be honored with the newly created U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Motor Carrier Safety Leadership Award, which was presented at the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Ga., on March 26.

Acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Admiral Thomas J. Barrett (Ret.) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator John Hill presented the award to Capt. Robert R. Powers, Jr., of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Traffic Safety Division (formerly the Motor Carrier Division) in recognition of Michigan's efforts to reduce truck-related crashes by closely monitoring commercial vehicle traffic.

The award recognizes states that experienced a significant reduction in truck-related crashes; exceeded USDOT thresholds for truck inspection and crash data accuracy, completeness and timeliness; and had a high percentage of commercial vehicle traffic stops that resulted in a driver or vehicle inspection.

In accepting the award, Powers stated, "The Michigan State Police is committed to ensuring a safe environment for motorists and highway workers alike and we will continue to aggressively pursue compliance of state and federal regulations." He added, "This award is a tribute to the commercial vehicle enforcement efforts of the men and women assigned to the MSP Traffic Safety Division."

Michigan has the lowest commercial motor vehicle fatality rate in the Midwest and one of the lowest rates in the nation at .12 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. In 2006, there were 13,069 truck involved crashes, 2,372 injury crashes and 108 fatal crashes compared to 15,641 crashes, 2,823 injury crashes and 111 fatal crashes in 2005.

Assistance from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center was vital to ensuring all truck crash data met USDOT thresholds.

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